

Bicycle Recreation

Bicycles are permitted only on the paved and service roads, not on trails. Conditions for bicyclists in the two parks vary significantly. Within Armstrong Redwoods riders should be aware that they will share the flat paved road with both pedestrians and vehicles. The terrain of Austin Creek State Recreation area requires biking experience as the paved and service roads include 1,000-foot elevation gains. The paved road to Bullfrog Pond from the picnic area is 2.5 miles long. There are approximately 6 miles of service roads that access the backcountry campsites. Once you have descended into the East Austin Creek valley the terrain becomes relatively flat.

When You Visit Please Remember

All Plants and animals are protected. Please do not disturb the natural features you find in the park. If you see a rattlesnake near a campground, please report it to a park ranger.

Stay on designated trails. Soil erosion and damage to the root systems of the redwoods are the result of off-trail walking and riding.

Vehicles are permitted only on paved roads. The maximum speed limit is 15 miles per hour. All park roads are narrow, so be prepared for oncoming traffic. Vehicles traveling downhill must yield to uphill traffic on the mountain roads of Austin Creek.

Dogs must be kept on leash during the day and in a vehicle or tent at night. They are not permitted on the trails or in the hike-in camps. There is an extra fee to bring your dog into the park.

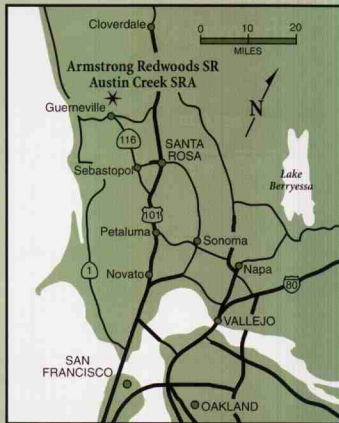
Hunting and the possession of weapons are prohibited anywhere in the park.

Fishing is not permitted in any of the streams.

Dead and down wood must be left undisturbed to replenish the soil and provide food and shelter for other plants and animals. Firewood can be purchased at the park entrance from a seasonal camp host or the patrol ranger.

Open fires must be confined to the stoves provided. Check with the park office on fire restrictions.

Campground quiet hours are 10 pm to 6 am. The playing of amplified music that can be heard outside your immediate area is prohibited at all times.



**Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve
Austin Creek State Recreation Area**
17000 Armstrong Woods Road
Guerneville, CA 95466
(707) 869-2015



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS.

www.cal-parks.ca.gov

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Governor

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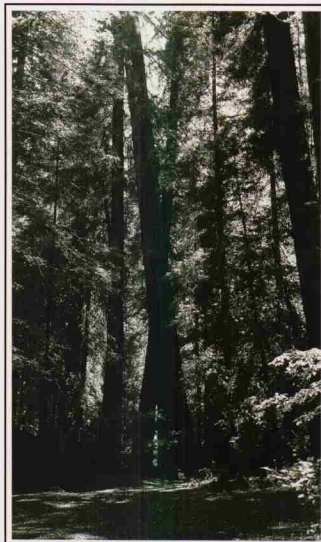
PATRICIA MEGASON
Interim Director, California State Parks

Visitors with disabilities should contact the park office to determine if their specific need can be met.

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Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve Austin Creek State Recreation Area



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Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve

Located in the Russian River region 75 miles north of San Francisco, this 805-acre park features a magnificent grove of ancient redwoods, self-guided nature trails, and picnic facilities.

As you stroll through this beautiful old-growth redwood forest, you will see some of the tallest and oldest trees remaining in this part of California. The Parson Jones Tree is about 310 feet high; the Colonel Armstrong Tree is more than 1,400 years old.

History

During the 1870s, this area was set aside as a "natural park and botanic gardens" by Colonel James Armstrong, an early-day lumberman who recognized the beauty and natural value of the forests he harvested. Today, the ancient redwood forest within the park is the largest remaining old-growth redwood forest in Sonoma County. It is a living reminder of the magnificent primeval redwood forest that covered much of this area before logging operations began during the 19th century.

Native Trees

Along with the coast redwoods in this grove, there are a number of other tree species, including tanoak, Douglas fir, California laurel, and big-leaf maple. In springtime, the forest floor is carpeted with clover-like redwood sorrel, trillium, fairy bells, and redwood orchids. In winter, mushrooms, mosses, lichens, and liverworts exhibit their fantastic shapes and colors.

World's Tallest Living Thing

The coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is the world's tallest living thing. In fact, the very tallest redwood is 368 feet high. They are also one of the world's oldest living things (some survive for as long as 2,000 years). They grow naturally only along a narrow coastal belt from southern Oregon to central California where moderate climate combines with heavy winter rain and frequent summer fog. Coast redwoods reach their maximum size and height on alluvial flats like the one beside Fife Creek.

Park Interpretive Services

Interpretive facilities designed to help park visitors enjoy this ancient redwood grove include a visitor center at the park entrance that is staffed daily by knowledgeable docents, self-guided trails, and trailside interpretive displays. Visitors can obtain park infor-

mation, publications, and view the center's natural history exhibits before beginning their tour of the grove.

The self-guided Armstrong Nature Trail is an easy walk through the grove. Printed guides for the nature trail are available at the visitor center or park office.

The Discovery Trail is another interpretive feature in the grove. It was especially designed for the visually impaired, though it can be enjoyed by all park visitors.

The Redwood Forest Theater is of historic interest. Once used for the presentation of various artistic events, it now provides visitors with a majestic place to sit and ponder the beauty of the surrounding grove.

Tables and barbecue facilities are available in the picnic area, which includes a group picnic site that can be reserved through the park office.

Check with the park staff for current information about any interpretive programs that may be scheduled during your visit.

Austin Creek State Recreation Area

Twenty miles of hiking and equestrian trails invite energetic visitors to explore and enjoy this wild and scenic area. Though the 5,683-acre park is close to urban development, its rugged topography gives a sense of isolation from the hustle and bustle of civilization. Elevations within the park range from 150 feet above sea level to almost 1,900 feet on Marble Mine Ridge.

Austin Creek's open forests and rolling hills offer a striking contrast to the cool, dark redwood grove in Armstrong Redwoods. Springtime wildflower displays include Douglas iris, buttercups, lupines, brodiaeas, California poppies, and shooting stars.

Native Animals

The grasslands, chaparral, conifer, oak woodland, and riparian habitats of Austin Creek SRA are home to a wide range of native animals and birds. Squirrels, deer, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, skunks, bobcats, black bears, and an occasional mountain lion are some of the native animals seen here. Introduced species that are commonly seen include feral pigs and turkeys.

Bird life in the park includes the colorful wood duck and the



White-Tailed Kite

Great Blue Heron

probable spotted owl. More frequently seen birds include great blue herons, white-tailed kites, quail, various woodpeckers, ravens, hawks, and flycatchers. Aquatic animals in the campground pond include sunfish, black bass, and bullfrogs. Trout, salmon, and California newts are found in the streams. Licensed anglers may fish Bullfrog Pond, but all park streams are closed to fishing in order to protect vitally important spawning habitat.

Austin Creek's historic Pond Farm Pottery was the home, workshop, and school of the internationally renowned ceramic artist, Marguerite Wildenhain, who settled here after World War Two. Formerly a student at Germany's famous Bauhaus school of design, Wildenhain enjoyed and was inspired by the peace and natural beauty of this area.

Camping

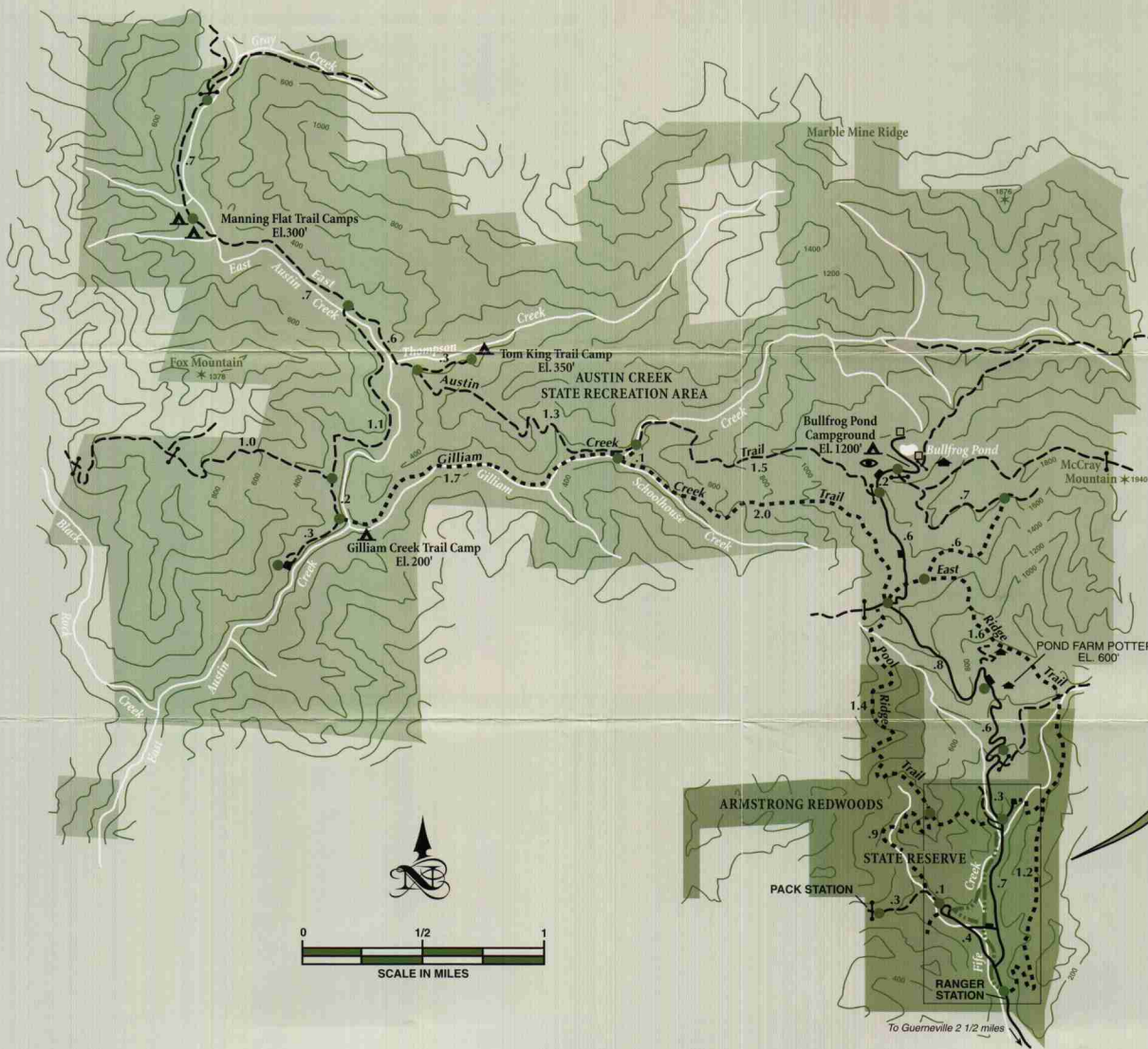
Twenty-three family campsites are located near Bullfrog Pond. Campsites are available throughout the year on a first-come, first-served basis. Tables, fire rings, flush toilets and potable water are provided but no sinks or showers are currently available. Vehicle access to the campground is by way of a steep, narrow, winding, 2.5-mile-long mountain road. For safety reasons, no vehicle over 20 feet in length is allowed on this road. Vehicles with trailers or other towed vehicles are also prohibited.

Backcountry trail camps are located at the Tom King, Gilliam Creek, and Mannings Flat sites. Each campsite has a table and fire ring. Pit toilets are located nearby. A year-round stream is nearby, but this water supply must be purified before drinking. Use of a microfilter is recommended. The trail camps are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A backcountry camping permit is required and can be obtained at the Armstrong Redwoods park office during business hours. Permits for day hiking are not required.

Ground fires are prohibited during periods of extreme fire danger, though camp stoves can still be used for cooking in all but the most critical periods of fire danger, when camping is not permitted at all. Summertime temperatures often exceed 100 degrees F. Winter temperatures occasionally drop below freezing and the 50 inches of annual rain generally includes an occasional snow flurry.

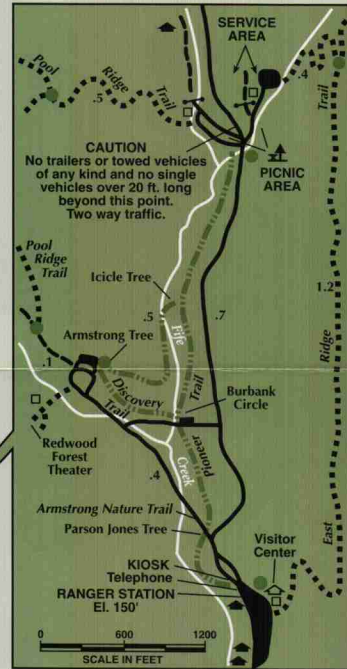
Equestrian Recreation

All of Austin Creek's trails are open to horses, although horse trailers are not permitted beyond the picnic area. Check with the park office for up-to-date information about trail conditions. A horse riding and pack station concession providing guided day and overnight trips is located 1/2 mile west of the Armstrong Tree in Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve.



- PAVED ROAD (Open to public)
- SERVICE ROAD (Authorized vehicles only)
- RIDING & HIKING TRAIL (No vehicles or bicycles)
- HIKING TRAIL ONLY (No vehicles, bicycles, horses or pack stock)
- PARKING AREA
- PARK RESIDENCE
- LOCKED GATE
- VISTA POINT
- RESTROOMS
- DISTANCE IN MILES BETWEEN POINTS

Park boundaries are constantly changing and private property surrounds the park in all directions. Please respect all signs and fences.



Park hours: 8 a.m. to one hour after sunset

No overnight stays permitted in Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve